THE NEW
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## *FEAR OF FULL-SCALE WAR AS ISRAEL-HAMAS CLASH KILLS 56*

**Tension gripped West Asia as Israel on Wednesday stepped up air strikes on Gaza while Hamas continued its rocket attacks**

### MORE ATTACKS LIKELY BEFORE A CEASEFIRE

Israeli airstrikes have levelled at least two apartment towers in Gaza. Warning shots have allowed civilians to evacuate the buildings, but the material losses will be immense. Israel's Defence Minister Benny Gantz vowed more attacks on Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in Gaza to bring "total, long-term quiet" before considering a ceasefire

### WOMEN, CHILDREN AMONG THOSE KILLED

- Worryingly, there is no sign either side is willing to back down
- Since Monday, 48 people were reportedly killed in Gaza, including 14 children, three Palestinians in the West Bank, and five Israelis
- A 31-year-old Keralite woman working as a nurse in Israel was among those killed in the Hamas rocket strike on Tuesday | P11

**1,050**

ROCKETS WERE FIRED FROM GAZA INTO ISRAEL, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI ARMY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

FOR THE INFORMATION OF GENERAL PUBLIC

COVID -19 VACCINATION

- The state government on 07.05.2021 decided to utilize the complete supply of vaccines provided by Govt. of India for vaccination of persons above 45+ years, for vaccinating beneficiaries who were due for second dose.
- Today the state government has decided that the vaccine procured directly by the state for vaccination of persons between 18 to 44 years will be utilized for vaccination of beneficiaries who are due for second dose.
- Therefore all vaccines available with the state government (ie. supplied by GoI & procured directly by state) will be utilized for vaccination of beneficiaries due for 2nd dose.
- In this regard vaccination for 18 to 44 age group (including those who have already booked appointment) will be temporarily suspended from 14.05.2021 till further orders.
- This order will be applicable for COVID vaccination at all Government COVID vaccination centers in state.

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

For information : Covid related queries, Covid Testing Centers, Covid Vaccination Centers, Medical Advice on Covid Symptoms call APTHAMITHRA Helpline 14410

For emergency cases, Ambulance facility and Inter -Hospital shifting of COVID-19 patients, call Helpline 108

BENGALURU COVID-19 HELPLINE 1912

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

To register for the COVID-19 vaccination, visit www.cowin.gov.in

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

# No vaccine for 18+ age group for now in K'taka

Available doses in govt health facilities will be used to administer second shot for 45+

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE State Government has decided to temporarily suspend vaccination for the 18-44 age group from May 14 until further notice. Vaccinations will not be given even to those who have already booked appointments. The order is applicable only for Covid-19 vaccination being administered at all government vaccination centers in the state.

This comes just a day after the state, which is facing a severe shortage of vaccines, decided to float a global tender to procure two crore doses and facilitate vaccination of those in the 18-44-year age group.

The State Government, on May 7, had decided to utilise the complete supply of vaccines provided by the Government of India for vaccination of persons aged 45 years and above, who were due for their second dose. On Wednesday, the government decided that the vaccines procured directly by the state for inoculation of persons aged between 18 and 44 will be utilised for vaccination of beneficiaries who are due for their second dose. Therefore, all vaccines available with the state (supplied by the Centre and procured directly by state) will be utilised for this purpose and vaccination of the 18-44 age group will be suspended.

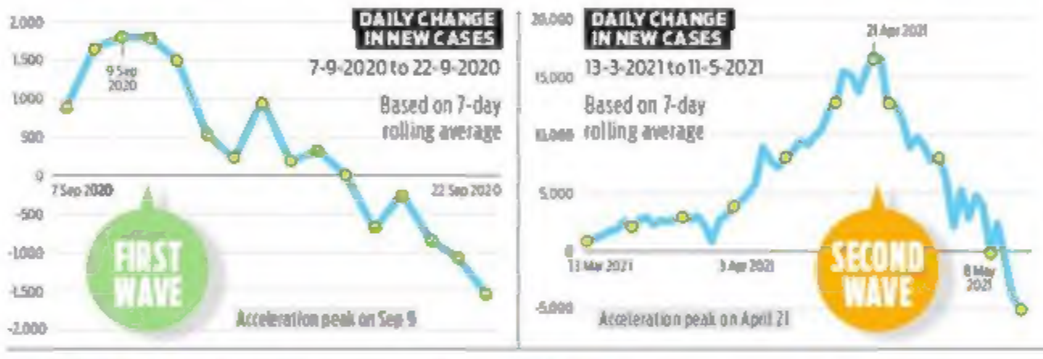
Earlier in the evening, the Karnataka Government decided to design its own website as an alternative, as many citizens were finding it difficult to book slots for Covid-19 vaccination on the Union Government's CoWIN portal.

When vaxxing for 18+ resumes, the website will function as a registration, tracking and information portal on the vaccination drive for those aged between 18 and 44, the age group for which the state is procuring vaccinations directly from vaccine manufacturers.

CONTINUED ON :P4

A health worker vaccinates a young woman at KC General Hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHRIRAM BN

# SECOND WAVE PEAKED ON APR 21; INDIA LOCKDOWN NOT NEEDED




M S SESHADRI AND T JACOB JOHN

INDIA'S second Covid wave has rapidly decelerated, the peak is over, and there is no need for a nationwide lockdown now. We used an innovative method to analyse daily numbers of new cases, by studying the acceleration and deceleration of both the first and the second waves of the coronavirus epidemic. The result of first wave showed that the numerical peak was a few days after the beginning of deceleration.

Deceleration of the second wave started on April 21 and the numerical peak (4,14,433 cases) occurred on May 6, followed by a declining average in daily numbers. This indicates that a nationwide lockdown is not necessary now. Its usefulness was when the second wave was rapidly rising, during March or early April.

Individual states can study their numbers of new cases using this technique and decide on the need for, and timing of, regional lockdowns.

FULL ARTICLE ON: newindianexpress.com

THANKSGIVING

ESI Hospital dean M Raveendran kneels down to offer his tribute to Florence Nightingale, whose birth anniversary was observed as International Nurses Day, in Coimbatore on Wednesday. Visibly emotional, he thanked the nurses for taking good care of him when he was a patient in the hospital earlier | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# 29 districts have positivity rate of over 10 pc: Govt

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WHILE the head of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Dr Balram Bhargava, has cautioned that districts reporting positivity rates of over 10 per cent should remain locked down for another six to eight weeks, 29 of Karnataka's 31 districts have reported much higher positivity rates.

Shockingly, 25 of the districts have positivity rates of around 20 per cent with no complete lockdown and the number of Covid cases continuously increasing. According to data released by the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday, Uttara Kannada district tops the list with a positivity rate of 46.6 per cent, which is more than twice the national average of 21 per cent. This is followed by Ballari (45.2 pc), Hassan (43.2 pc), Mysuru (42.2 pc), Shivamogga (39.5 pc), Tumakuru (38.1 pc) and Bengaluru Urban (34.7 pc). Eighteen districts in Karnataka have a positivity rate of over 30 per cent, eight districts above 20 per cent, three with positive rate above 10 per cent.

Dr Giridhara R Babu, senior epidemiologist and member of Covid-19 Techincal Advisory Committee, warned, "The infection rate in districts can only be controlled with increase in testing and ensuring that the lockdown norms are strictly followed. "Otherwise, the number of cases will rise much higher and the mortality rates too may increase drastically."

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SEE ALSO: P9

| NATIONWIDE | MAY 11 | MAY 12 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 3,29,942 | 3,48,421 |
| Recoveries | 3,56,082 | 3,55,338 |
| Deaths | 3,876 | 4,205 |

| STATEWIDE | MAY 11 | MAY 12 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 39,510 | 39,998 |
| Recoveries | 22,584 | 34,752 |
| Deaths | 480 | 517 |

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 11 23,85,092 doses

May 12 17,72,261 doses

TOTAL: 17,70,85,371

EXPRESS READ

### Govt allows MNREGA work, but with norms

Bengaluru: The government, which had halted MNREGA work in view of the second wave, on Wednesday allowed work to restart, with strict guidelines in place. A meeting on the same will be held with the Chief Secretary, RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa and officials in the next two to three days. P5

# Chief Secy, other officials raise red flag over vax shortage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

EVEN as Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar maintained that there is no shortage of vaccine, officials, including Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar, spoke about the glaring lack of supplies to the State. While the State demanded three crore doses, only seven lakh have been sent by the Centre, with the allocation to Bengaluru at only 40,000 doses.

A BBMP official told *The New Indian Express*, "If we have to be comfortable, we need 1-1.3 lakh doses, but we are getting 30,000-40,000 every day. Private hospitals should share their stock, procurement and vaccination details with the government. But there is no cooperation."

CONTINUED ON :P4

# No recovery yet as factory output contracts by 8.6% in FY21: NSO data

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for March, released on Wednesday, showed that factory output registered a 22.5% growth for the month. However, experts say there is nothing to rejoice as this 'growth' was due to low base effect and that industrial activity in FY21 actually shrank by a whopping 8.6% compared with 0.8% contraction in the previous financial year. Besides, the March 2021 numbers don't reflect the impact of localised lockdowns and night curfews across the country.

According to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector output contracted by 9.8%, mining sector output contracted 7.8% while electricity shrank by 0.5%.

"The pace of the IIP's expansion in March 2021 was in the middle of our forecast range (17.5-25%). Given the low base of the lockdown, we believe it's more meaningful to compare the industrial performance in March 2021 with March 2019, which reveals a mild albeit sobering contraction of 0.5%," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.

"We expect the IIP to expand by a transient but relatively meaningless about 150% in April 2021 on the low base of the nationwide lockdown that was in effect in April 2020," she added.

# 12 OPPOSITION PARTIES PRESS MODI FOR FREE MASS VACCINATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS many as 12 heads of Opposition parties on Wednesday wrote a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding free mass vaccination, allotting funds and foodgrains for the poor, expediting vaccine production and putting the Central Vista project on hold.

The letter comes following fiercely fought Assembly elections in West Bengal and Kerala where the Trinamool Congress and the Congress and the Left Front were pitted against each other, showing the rising index of Opposition unity.

The signatories were Sonia Gandhi (Cong), HD Deve Gowda (JD(S)), Sharad Pawar (NCP), Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena), Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool Congress), M K Stalin (DMK), Hemant Soren (JMM), Farooq Abdullah (National Conference), Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), D Raja (CPI) and Sitaram Yechury (CPM). Four of them are chief ministers.

Prominent among the slew of suggestions they made were: "Procure vaccines centrally from all available sources — global and domestic. Immediately begin a free, universal mass vaccination campaign across the country. Invoke compulsory licensing to expand domestic vaccine production. Spend budgetary allocation of ₹35,000 crores for the vaccines. Stop Central Vista construction. Use the allocated money for procuring oxygen and vaccines, instead. Release all money held in the unaccounted private trust fund, PM-Cares to buy more vaccines, oxygen and medical equipment required."

### Free grains to poor, ₹6,000 to jobless

The joint letter urged Modi to give all jobless people at least ₹6,000 per month, provide free foodgrains to the needy and repeal the controversial farm sector reform laws

GRATITUDE

# *Doc from Chandigarh volunteers at Mysuru hosp for saving mom*

AJITH M S @ Mysuru

WHEN words come up short to express gratitude to health workers, who are involved in saving thousands of lives amid the pandemic, actions speak. A young doctor, who flew down from Chandigarh, has now volunteered to work for free at the Mysuru district Covid-19 hospital where his mother, who was in a very critical state, was saved.

Dr Harsha, who hails from a family of agriculturists in Mandya district, is pursuing his doctor of medicine (MD) in Radiodiagnosis at the prestigious PGIMER, Chandigarh.

The gesture has come in for much praise at a time when hospitals, especially government institutions, which are handling a majority of critical cases, are grappling with an acute shortage of staff and repeated recruitment drives have yielded no results.

Dr Harsha

It all started after Dr Harsha's 48-year-old mother Rajalakshmi's vitals started fluctuating, when she was under treatment for Covid-19 at a hospital in Maddur, Mandya district, and was in urgent need of an ICU bed. While many hospitals denied her a bed and washed their hands of the patient, saying she was too critical and could not be saved, the Covid-19 hospital in Mysuru agreed to take her in after initially declining to do so.

"Many had written off her case, but it was the Mysuru district hospital and Dr Rajeshwari H R, the District Surgeon, who filled us with hope and shifted her to the ICU. After 10 days of care, she is now finally out of the ICU and recuperating well," said a relieved Dr Harsha.

Inspired by the service at the hospital and the efforts of the staff in bringing his mother back from the brink, Dr Harsha landed in Mysuru, donned a PPE suit, and has been volunteering to treat patients at the hospital ever since. P3